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'Nepotism kills talent in Sandalwood'

Aileen Raju
& Anuja Jose

CAMPUS: Newcomers are not really welcomed into the industry, opined Mohammed Affan Pasha, talking about the Kannada film industry's reluctance to embrace talent in the growing film scene.

The Department of English at St. Joseph's University premiered a short film titled "Area Bois" directed by Mahishaa on Oct 18.

Mohammed Affan Pasha, one of the three actors in the film, felt that the mainstream work in the industry hadn't quite evolved with time. As an artist, currently working on a few musical projects, Pasha stated that newcomers are often shunned. "All the independent creators, like filmmakers and musicians, do not have people who are interested in funding. No one is really interested in supporting us," he added. He hoped that the industry would change soon and start welcoming new ideas rather than keeping things as they are.

In the film, three boys from Mathikere discuss their crushes, breakups, and friendships while feasting on meat and parottas. Filmmaker Mahishaa stated that he wanted to create a web series, of which this short film would be a part. "I had to do everything by myself. Apart from the three on-screen performers, I was the only one off-screen," director Mahishaa told The Beacon.

Plastic lighters kill small safety matches

Sowmya A

Eighty years ago the inhabitants in and around Sivakasi, Tamil Nadu, suffered huge losses during the series of droughts and were left without any income. That is when they hit upon the idea of an alternative to manufacture match boxes to keep their kitchens warm. However, now their lives do not seem as bright as they did before as they are pushed to find an alternative to plastic lighters.

The import of plastic lighters from China has affected the matchbox manufacturing units in India and made the domestic markets suffer losses. Accounting for 90% of India's consumption and 40% of global consumption, these industries had expanded beyond Sivakasi to districts of



Workers in a manufacturing unit

Bellmatch.com

Virudhunagar, Tirunelveli, Thoothukudi and Vellore. R Gopalsamy, Vice President of the National Small Match Manufacturers Association, Kovilpatti, said that the import of plastic lighters from China threatens the matchbox manufacturing industry

which employs around 90% of women in Tamil Nadu. He added that the plastic lighters are also imported illegally from China with wrong HSN codes and low declared value which in turn results in revenue loss for the Indian Government in terms

of GST and customs duties. These imports from China will only help flourish the Chinese Industry, not India, he expressed.

The matchbox manufacturing units alone contribute over Rs 4000 crore in revenue to the Government in GST. Moreover, Tamil Nadu being the leading exporter of matchboxes contributes around 80% of exports among the other Indian states, he told The Beacon. It also fetches over Rs 400 crores in foreign exchange through exports. Around 90 Lakh people are directly or indirectly involved in this industry working in printing, Logistics, and many more fields.

As the imported lighters are made of single-use plastic and are non-refillable, they

are hazardous to the environment and the people. A single plastic lighter can substitute 20 matchboxes and around 4200 jobs are lost every day because of the imports, said Gopalsamy. These imports will also cut down the number of working days for the workers as they are forced to curtail production volumes, posing a threat to the 'Make in India' policy.

Earlier, the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, MK Stalin addressed this issue through a letter to the Minister of Commerce and Industry, Piyush Goyal on Sept 8, 2020. In his letter, he urged the Centre to impose a ban on these single-use plastic lighters to save the livelihood of people in the state who are dependent on this job.

Will unconventional new CJ change convention?

Jenett Jose

Justice Dhananjaya Yashwant Chandrachud would be appointed as India's 50th Chief Justice on Nov 9. On October 11, the outgoing Chief Justice of India (CJI) chose Chandrachud as his successor. Justice Chandrachud will be the CJI for two years, while his predecessor was only in office for 74 days.

Justice Chandrachud has been a member of various constitution benches and historic Supreme Court rulings, including those concerning the Ayodhya land dispute, the



New CJI - DY Chandrachud

NDTV.com

right to privacy, and adultery. He has a reputation for being unconventional. He was a member of the bench that rendered landmark decisions on decriminalising same-sex relationships, the legitimacy of the Aadhaar system, and

the Sabarimala controversy. Justice Chandrachud, who has a Harvard Law School PhD, earned his BA (Honours) in economics from St. Stephen's College in New Delhi. He then obtained his LLB at Delhi

University's Campus Law Centre. He was an advocate in the Bombay High Court and the Supreme Court. On March 29, 2000, he was appointed to the Bombay High Court. From 1998 to 2000, he was the Additional Solicitor General of India.

He is the son of former Supreme Court judge Y.V. Chandrachud, India's longest-serving Chief Justice from 1978 to 1985. On May 13, 2016, Justice Chandrachud was appointed to the Supreme Court and will serve as the Chief Justice for two years until he retires

No to Chinese wall between students and VC

Megha Mukundan

BENGALURU: Bangalore University (BU) seems to be in the limelight for the wrong reasons of late. This time it is a circular demanding the students to get prior permission to meet the Vice-Chancellor (VC) that has raised many eyebrows.

Student organisations have condemned this move and termed it autocratic. They opine that it gives the university the authority to reject the meet, posing a challenge to the democratic nature of the University.

BU has a legacy of having strong VCs like H. Narasimhaiyya, who had stood for the students even against the police force, read a press release of AIDS-O. He had restricted the entry of the force to the campus firmly, by daring them to pass on him if they were to enter.

With the VC being a representative of students, it is important to have a direct and free code of conduct between them, said AIDS-O.

"The new circular is likely to curtail this freedom, which is anti-student in nature." The organisation has urged the university to call off the decision immediately.

Normalising tattoos as an art form

Priyanka Gond

BENGALURU: The diversity of tattoos offered at the Puncturewala Tattoo Festival has been pulling in crowds from all over the city to experience this unconventional art form. Bangalore is being offered artists from Homework Studios hailing from all corners of the world.

The Puncturewala Tattoo Festival was held at the Indiranagar SOCIAL in partnership with Homework Studio and the Indian homegrown tattoo community. The Festival celebrates the longstanding tradition of tattoo parlours on



Sign Board

Priyanka Gond

the open road, featuring artists from all over the country putting their flashes for sale.

Mihir Harish Wadhel, executive designer at Homework

studio, from Mumbai, said, "Pre-booking an event is a first for us. We are able to get the crowd for the pop-ups. But the cloudy weather has compelled us to change venues, but it's been great so far."

Among many artists, Epoc47 has a very dark style while Bananatatz does cute tattoos and Flyin' Munki does anime-based tattoos.

Natasha Shaji, also called Dyefroth said to The Beacon that her art is surrealistic, depicting humans, but not actual humans. Her inspiration is to create art that is not commonly seen.

GHI report under scanner

Vanlalhuma

The recent release of The Global Hunger Index (GHI) 2022 has caused concern as India ranks low on the list yet again. GHI is an annual report published by Concern Worldwide and Welthungerhilfe, that measures hunger at the global level.

According to the Economic Times, India has been placed at a very low rank of 107 out of 121 in the GHI 2022 with a score of 29.1, and its child-wasting rate

at 19.3 per cent (the highest in the world) has raised alarms. However, a few in the country have questioned the integrity and findings of GHI with the Union Health Committee calling it an exaggeration.

Swadeshi Jagran Manch, a political and cultural organisation, told The Indian Express that the ranking of the 121 countries has been prepared in a very irresponsible way to defame India, calling it not only faulty but also ridiculous.